

February 24, 2018

**Historic Camp Greene
Neighborhood Association**

Hosted by City of Charlotte Housing & Neighborhood Services at

Goodwill Opportunity Campus

Historic Camp Greene Neighborhood Association

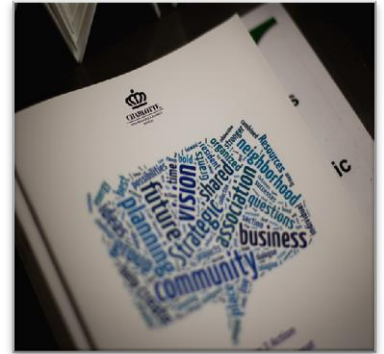
2018 Board Retreat

Background

On Saturday, February 24, 2018, the board members of the Historic Camp Greene participated in the Neighborhood Board Retreat facilitated by the City of Charlotte, hosted at the Goodwill Opportunity Campus. The following board members and/or community members participated in the retreat:

Cynthia Harrison
Kay Barker
Malcolm Garland
Elouise Garland

Eddie Johnson
Patsy Locke
Niel Broome



The City of Charlotte values citizen leadership and its ability to make an impact in the communities, in which we all live, work, play and shop. With this in mind, the board retreat process was initiated to help neighborhood based organizations develop strategic plans to improve quality of life in their communities.

Purpose

The purpose of the board retreat was to

- Generate meaningful conversations around improving quality of life in our community
- Set clear goals and priorities for the upcoming year(s)
- Develop a vision and strategic priorities for our community

By participating in the retreat, our board earned a \$1,500 match credit toward a Neighborhood Matching Grant (NMG) to help execute one of the projects we identified. More information on the grant program can be found online at <http://charlottenc.gov/nmg>.

To receive this credit we'll submit our completed Vision to Action Idea Development Plan Workbook with our NMG request. This credit will expire following the June 1, 2019 NMG application deadline.

Process

Our board retreat was conducted by trained facilitators tasked to keep our conversations on-task, productive, and focused on achievable objectives. The process was designed to help capture the best of the past, the best of the present, and how we can add to our strengths to build a better future. The focus was:

- Developing a vision to guide our decision making and activities
- Developing strategic priorities that aligned with our vision
- Developing project ideas

The agenda for the day was as follows:

- Introductions
- Where Have We Been? Where Are We Going?: Arrow Activity
- Where We Want to Be: Vision Statement Exercise
- Seeing the Forest through the Trees: Developing Strategic Priorities
- Working Lunch – The Year Ahead
- Idea Development – Time for participants for develop an action plan for goal achievement

Where Are We Going, Where Have We Been?

We began our day with paired interviews using the “Where Are We Going, Where Have We Been?” activity. The activity was intended to help us reflect on:

- What we value
- What are the best things about our community and the people who live here
- What are our past successes
- Where are the potentials and possibilities

After interviewing our partners we shared our discussion with the group, finding commonalities in our conversations.

Where We Were: Reflecting on our past, what were some of the best/worst moments?	Where We Are: Why would or wouldn't a person/business want to move into our community?	Where We Want to Be: If you could make 3 wishes to make our community flourish, what would they be?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Best: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Centennial Celebration -CMPD collaboration-prostitute removal -Good schools -Strong neighborhood feel -Fighting bad/unwanted developments • Worst <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Prostitutes -Bad PR/news/media -Crime (shootings, major drug bust- ended up on news) -Limited employment opportunities -High number of rentals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Relatively safe -Nice tree canopy -Location- Center city -New development -School choice (charter) -City incentives for bus -Lower cost of living -Large lots • Would not <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lower quality businesses and restaurants -Level of crime has increased -School quality has decreased -Lack of recreations/green space -Increased renters -Increased code enforcement issues -Low property upkeep 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Increase number of homeowners -Clean up properties -Community participation -Better traffic regulation/street parking -Be more engaged by city officials -Youth center/activities

Our Vision

Our vision is the unifying statement for our community that will guide our decision making and reminds us of what we are trying to reach. It is based on our shared values and preferences for our community's future. It combines the best of what was, what is, and what could be.

OUR VISION:

*Preserving our past, protecting
our future*

Strategic Priorities

After committing to a shared vision, the board began to brainstorm on strategic priorities. This is where we began to define what is most important to us in order to achieve our vision. Strategic priorities are initiatives that will help us move closer to our vision of our community. The idea is to focus on a few things and do them very well as opposed to many things and missing the mark.

We started out thinking big and then narrowed down our focus using the Affinity Mapping Process, detailed below:

- Grab some sticky notes from the table. Keeping the vision statement in mind, write down as many of the following as you can think of, one per sticky note:
 - Current action items getting you closer to our vision.
 - Possible priorities/actions items to get us closer to our vision.
- Place the sticky notes on the wall.
- Organize the ideas by natural categories, once everyone agrees on the groups, give each one a name.



This activity led us to the following categories and action items being identified as important within our community:

- Category 1: **Neighborhood Outreach (tree)**
 - Community engagement (internal)- Communication and Outreach project
 - Dowd House Ownership opportunity
 - Develop youth committee on board
- Category 2: **Long Range Planning (tree)**
 - Develop a neighborhood plan with city support
- Category 3: **City reporting (tree)**
 - Monthly new development update
 - City/county brief on senior support services
- Category 4: Stewardship
 - Evaluate use of funds; correct and/or misuse
- Category 5: Accountability
 - Encourage our leaders to accomplish objectives
 - Do not repeat past errors
- Category 6: Objectives/goals
 - Improve schools
 - Increase number of homeowners
 - Attract upscale businesses
 - Decrease crime
- Category 7: Recreation
 - Youth programs
 - Recreations/green spaces
 - Use Spagh building for recreation site

Each participant was provided three (3) stickers to be used for voting. Stickers could be placed all on one or two items or shared amongst all of the ideas identified. The three categories receiving the most votes are the strategic priorities that are most important for us to begin working on to achieve our vision. Within these three categories, there were three activities selected as most impactful toward achieving our strategic priorities.

The strategic priorities and activities are summarized on the following page.



2018 Neighborhood Board Retreat Summary

Historic Camp Greene Neighborhood Association

OUR VISION:

Preserving our past, protecting our future

TO HELP US REACH OUR VISION; WE WILL FOCUS ON THREE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

1

Neighborhood Outreach

2

Long range planning

3

City reporting

IN 2018-2019, WE WILL WORK ON THESE ACTIVITIES GUIDED BY OUR PRIORITIES:

Develop a communication and outreach project to increase neighborhood involvement

Develop a neighborhood plan with city support

Organize monthly speakers/briefs for meetings (zoning, planning, CDOT.)

Please list any parking lot items or additional activities beyond the initial 3 here.

- Planning/zoning information on development in the neighborhood
 - Community feels they learn about projects after approval/implementation
 - Seeking contacts to stay abreast
- Send QOL summary PDF to Cynthia to share with neighbors
- Information on tax relief for elderly to help them keep their homes
- Support in creating better PR for their neighborhood around crime and schools
- Contact information for their new Code Enforcement inspector



Resources to Get Started- You’ve rolled up your sleeves and established your vision. We have compiled resources that may assist your organization in achieving your goals on our Neighborhood Training Programs and Resources [website](#). We have identified resource categories that may be applicable to your projects below; please do not hesitate to explore more categories as you undertake your work! Links and contact information are provided for information only and are subject to change.

Project	Potential Resource Categories of Interest
Develop a communication and outreach project to increase neighborhood involvement	Beautification; Communication
Develop a neighborhood plan with city support	Partnerships; Public Safety
Organize monthly speakers/briefs for meetings (zoning, planning, CDOT.)	Partnerships; Public Safety

Your community is located within Charlotte’s Northwest Service Area. Your staff contacts for following up and community assistance are:

Cherie Grant, Northwest Community Engagement Liaison	Randy Harris, Northwest Community Engagement Manager
Cherie.Grant@charlottenc.gov or 704-336-3322	rharris@charlottenc.gov or 704-432-1579

